

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 DHA-02

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2045

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATD

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 6780

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF ID

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES: BOAT CHOU-LONG

REF: JAKARTA 11098; 11099

1. MISOFF THIS MORNING PASSED CONTENT OF REFTELS TO RESPONSIBLE UNHCR CASE OFFICER, EXPRESSING STRONG PERSONAL INDIGNATION OVER CONTEMPLATED INDONESIAN ACTION AND INSTRUCTIONS FROM GOI OFFICIAL THAT REFUGEE BOAT CHOU-LONG BE FORCED BACK TO SEA. MISOFF REMINDED UNHCR REP THAT THIS FOLLOWS REFUSAL BY SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT TO PERMIT SUCH REFUGEES TO LAND, SIMILAR ACTION BY MALAYSIA, AND INDICATIONS OF STIFFENING ATTITUDE ON PART OF PHILIPPINES, DESPITE APPEAL FROM HIGH COMMISSIONER. TERMING THE DELIBERATE IMPERILMENT OF SOULS WITH OFFICIAL SANCTION INHUMAN AND BARBAROUS, MISOFF SAID THAT WHILE HE COULD NOT SPEAK OFFICIALLY AT THIS POINT, HE FELT TIME HAD COME FOR STERN STAND CONDEMNING SUCH ACTIONS. IN RESPONSE UNHCR REP'S QUERY, MISOFF STATED HE CONSIDERED PROPOER SOURCE OF SUCH CONDEMNATION TO BE HIGH COMMISSIONER, SINCE THESE ARE HUMAN BEINGS, TRUE REFUGEES FLEEING THEIR HOMELAND, MANY OF THEM WOMEN AND CHILDREN, FACING DEATH ON THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HIGH SEAS, AND MANIFESTLY WITHIN HIS MANDATE. TO

UNHCR REP'S OBSERVATION THAT NOTHING HAD HAPPENED
THUS FAR TO THOSE ABOARD CHOUL-LONG, MISOFF REPLIED
THAT BY TIME THEY WERE FORCED TO PUT OUT AGAIN IN
UNSEAWORTHY CRAFT, IT COULD WELL BE TOO LATE.

2. UNHCR REP STATED HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH
SAMPATKUMAR EARLIER THIS MORNING AND LATTER ALREADY
APPRISED OF CHOU-LONG CASE. REP STATED HE WOULD TAKE
UP SUBJECT IMMEDIATELY WITH HIGH COMMISSIONER AND
DETERMINE WHAT FURTHER ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN BY
UNHCR.

3. COMMENT. MISSION CONSIDERS THIS MATTER OF UTMOST
GRAVITY WHICH INVOLVES FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPT AND PUR-
POSE OF HIGH COMMISSION. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUC-
TIONS AS TO STAND MISSION SHOULD TAKE OFFICIALLY
WITH UNHCR. CATTO

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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